Anti-racism Advisory Committee

City of Edmonton

Meeting Minutes July 14, 2021 | 5:00pm - 7:00pm



Invited Attendees

Committee Members:

Beth Brusselers, Trent Daley, Rehana Gilani, Feisal Kirumira, Joud Nour Eddin, Ada Okeke, Andrew Parker, Faisal Salama, Sameer Singh, Shalini Sinha, Kimberly Yamada

Regrets:

Nestor Avalos, Harman Singh Kandola, Councillor Scott McKeen

Guests:

Edrick Andrews

Council Sponsors:

Councillor Mo Banga

Administration:

Jasmine Brazil, Andre Corbould, Mike Chow, Antoinette Davis, Samuel Juru, Melissa Kuriyama, Carissa Lamoureux

1.0 Welcome	ACTION	LEAD
1.1 Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm and a roll call was completed by the Chair. - The Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement was made.		

2.0 Review	ACTION	LEAD
2.1 Agenda Review		
MOTION: To adopt the July 14, 2021 meeting agenda. Moved by Faisal Salama Majority Vote	Carried	

3.0 Minutes	ACTION	LEAD
3.1 Review and approval of minutes from June 9, 2021 meeting		
MOTION: To adopt the June 9, 2021 ARAC meeting minutes. Moved by Ada Okeke Majority Vote	Carried	

4.0 Discussion Point - Community Safety & Well-Being, Continuing ACTION LEAD	4.0 Discussion Point - Community Safety & Well-Being, Continuing	ACTION	LEAD
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4.1 Update from City Manager, Andre Corbould

- Safer for All: A work plan for Community Safety and Well-Being was presented to Council on June 30, 2021. The report focused on 4 key themes and presented 14 recommendations.
- The City of Edmonton, Edmonton Police Services and Police Commission developed a work plan with 4 key themes with actions that the City of Edmonton can influence with 70 actions under the themes.
- The 4 key themes are:
 - Integrated System & Coordinated Response
 - Organizational Cultures
 - Social Responsibility
 - Prevention and Support
- COE will report back to Council in the 1st quarter of 2022 with further analysis for EPS funding in 2022.
- COE is also looking at the cross cutting themes which the report did not include: intersectionalities of identity, experience and history.
- Council made two motions on June 30:
 - That Administration work in a collaborative, decision-making way with the Anti-racism Advisory Committee, additional BIPOC stakeholders and the Edmonton Police Commission, to provide additional clarity and actionable data points on the tangible outcomes taken with respect to the 14 recommendations, as outlined by the Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force, in the next update on the "Safer for All Strategy" (OCM00568 Safer for All Strategy Community Safety, Well Being, Inclusion and Anti-racism). Due Date: First Quarter 2022, City Council
 - That the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, write a letter to the federal government requesting a review and potential update of the current definition of a hate crime for racial/gendered/cultural gaps and/or biases and the legislative application thereof.
- COE is to work with partners for data collection and will start working on some actionable recommendation items.
 - How to measure data
 - Seek more input from organizations/community
 - What are the tangible outcomes for the 14 recommendations?
- Next steps:
 - Collect research and engage with the community
 - Examine findings to make more recommendations/actionable items
 - Review the feedback that has been gathered so far
 - To create an anti-racism advisory group to support the City Manager's office
 - Anti-hate legislation advocacy to federal government
 - Q1 2022 Report to include: Point-by-point address of Task Force recommendations and Net-new initiatives

4.2 Discussion

- What does collaborative decision making look like?
 - ARAC held a community BIPOC event to respond to the Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force report. This event was run with BIPOC leaders, BIPOC consultants and BIPOC attendees. The attendees were able to process the report and find their voice. This event created a safe space to allow for a more robust conversation in an informal setting.
 - These types of events are not sustainable for ARAC members to arrange on their own.

- What does BIPOC stakeholders mean? Does ARAC have a list already created?
 - How will the process work? There must be a very clear set of processes from the beginning
 - Determine the outcomes, then work backwards. There needs to be agreement on what we are trying to achieve and the outcomes to avoid.
 - Who are the BIPOC stakeholders? How to get that done?
 - Community engagement is a priority.
 - Creating safe ways for individuals to come to ARAC rather than reaching out to specific individuals/organizations. Are there safe spaces for people to feel safe to approach ARAC and feel authentically involved?
 - If the City manager wants to create an anti-racism advisory group, there are never too many groups to provide advice. Would this group be remunerated?
 Within the ARAC mandate: states that ARAC can work with the City Manager.
 - The Mayoral letter directed to the province on updating the definition of hate crimes will carry more weight now with the recent hate crime incidents in Edmonton.
 - Creating an anti-racism phone line is important, then there needs to be precautions in place to ensure safety.
 - Who will be the centre of the work in response to the report? The Task Force report centered on Edmonton Police Services and not the individuals who were impacted by systemic racism issues.
- ARAC needs to be remunerated for their time and dedication to systemic racism issues. There is an increased amount of work for the committee since the committee began a year ago.
- City Manager responses:
 - Look to have a more integrated response to the Council report in January: include the City Manager, ARAC Chair and community members.
 - Look to include more individuals writing the report to ensure the right voices are being heard.
 - Ensure the hiring of BIPOC consultants to provide a comprehensive report back to City Council.

Put an Anti-racism phone on the August ARAC Agenda.

5.0 Statement from ARAC - Attacks on Black Muslim Women	ACTION	LEAD
 5.1 Ratification of statement The Public Engagement and Outreach subcommittee has been making personal relationships and connections with organizations in the community. The ARAC Chair has been completing the statement on the attacks of Black Muslim women for the public. It will be completed by July 15, 2021 and the Chair will share it with ARAC members for feedback. The letter will be shared with the City Council, COE Administration and Edmontonians (through the media). Looking to implement programs through various Edmonton organizations: 		

- A safe walk program through community leagues for Muslim women
- more mental health and trauma support (resources)
- Investigations on hate crime incidents

MOTION:

For the Anti-racism Adviosry Committee (ARAC) Chair to write a letter on behalf of ARAC to the Mayor, City Administration and Edmontonians to address the issues on the recent attacks on Muslim women (Hijabe and Black Muslim women)

Moved by Trent Daley

Majority Vote

Carried

6.0 S	ubcommittee & Working Group Updates	ACTION	LEAD
-	Public Engagement & Outreach subcommittee	Tabled	
-	Funding subcommittee - Subcommittee members are looking to recruit four ad-hoc members to review ARAC grants.		
-	Community Safety subcommittee	Tabled	
-	Holocaust Remembrance Working Group	Tabled	
-	 Appointment Process Working Group Working group has created a draft template on the appointment process. The template has a potential start date of May 2022 with an additional clause that if an ARAC member leaves the committee, then ARAC is able to recruit at any time. The recruitment process will reduce barriers to filling out the form (i.e. request assistance if required). The working group will create the process this year and look for any gaps and in 2022 due to the upcoming City of Edmonton election in October. 		

7.0 Chair Updates	ACTION	LEAD
	Tabled	

8.0 Adjournment	
- The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.	

Next Meeting			
Date	Time	Location	
August 11, 2021	5:00 to 7:00 pm	Google Meet	